



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE

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District Man Pleads Guilty to Biting, Attempting to Rape Victim

WASHINGTON – Michael A. Ellison, 44, formerly of the 200 block of Hamilton Street NW, Washington, D.C., pleaded guilty today to malicious disfigurement and attempted first degree sexual abuse for biting and attempting to rape his then-girlfriend, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 29, 2010 before the Honorable Gerald Fisher in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. The parties agreed, as part of the plea hearing, that a seven-year period of incarceration would be appropriate. After reviewing a pre-sentence report, Judge Fisher will determine whether he agrees that sentence is appropriate.

According to the government's evidence, as proffered at the plea hearing, on the night of June 15 - 16, 2010, Ellison was planning to spend the night at the victim's apartment. He indicated that he wanted to engage in sexual activity with her. She told the defendant "no." Ellison became angry and bit the victim on her upper left biceps area and on her right forearm in an attempt to get her to engage in sexual activity with him. In doing so, he bit off pieces of the victim's flesh.

A short while later, in another attempt to get the victim to engage in sex with him, the defendant again bit the victim. This time, he bit her three or four times on her cheeks, puncturing her skin and leaving tooth marks on both sides of her face. She has suffered scarring from these bites.

The victim was able to contact the police, and the defendant was arrested while still inside the victim's apartment. After his arrest, the defendant gave a statement to the police, which was video-recorded. During his statement, he admitted that he had "lost it," bit the victim and didn't really remember what he'd done.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the work of Metropolitan Police Department Detectives William Weeks and Jose Solloso of the Sexual Assault Unit; Mobile Crime Laboratory Technicians Dwayne Mitchell and Natasha Pettus; and MPD Fourth District Officers N.J. Dengler and B. Cover. He also praised the work of paralegal Joyce Arthur; legal assistant Tanisha "Nikki" Nelson, and victim advocate Iris Vega. Finally, he commended Assistant U.S. Attorney Peter V. Taylor, who investigated and prosecuted the

case.

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